

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 10, 11, and 17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 4, and 14 as follows. All claims in the application are being presented below in accordance with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

M. 1. (Currently Amended) An image heating apparatus for heating an image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a heater, said heater including a metallic substrate, and said heater being fixed so as not to rotate with respect to said apparatus;

a holder for holding said heater;

a film moving in contact with said heater; and

a back-up roller for defining a nip with said heater via said film;

wherein said metallic substrate has a convex surface on a side of the nip and a concave surface on an opposite surface, and the concave surface is held by said holder.

2. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said metallic substrate is obtained by bending a flat metal plate.

3. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said metallic substrate has an arch-shape.

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4. (Currently Amended) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a holder for holding said heater, wherein a surface on a side of the nip of said holder being connected smoothly to a the convex surface on the side of the nip of said heater.

5. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a curvature of the surface on the nip side of said holder is substantially same as a curvature of the surface on the nip side of said heater.

6. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said holder has a guide surface for guiding said film.

7. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heater has a first insulating layer on said metallic substrate, a heat generating resistor layer on said first insulating layer and a second insulating layer on said heat generating resistor layer.

8. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second insulating layer of said heater is in contact with said film.

9. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a width in a moving direction of the recording material of said metallic substrate is greater than a width of the nip.

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Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said metallic substrate is in a range of 0.5 mm to 2 mm.

13. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said film has an elastic layer.

14. (Currently Amended) A heater for use in an image heating apparatus, said heater being adapted to be fixed so as not to rotate with respect to the image heating apparatus that has a holder for holding said heater, a film moving in contact with said heater, and a back-up roller for defining a nip with said heater via the film, said heater comprising:

a metallic substrate; and

a heat generating resistor;

wherein said metallic substrate has a convex surface on one side and a concave surface on an opposite side, and

wherein the concave surface is held by the holder.

15. (Original) A heater according to claim 14, wherein said heat generating resistor is provided on the convex surface of said metallic substrate.

16. (Original) A heater according to claim 14, further comprising a first insulating layer on said metallic substrate, wherein said heat generating resistor layer is provided on said first insulating layer and a second insulating layer is provided on said heat generating resistor layer.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Original) A heater according to claim 14, wherein a thickness of said metallic substrate is in a range of 0.5 mm to 2 mm.

[Please add Claims 19-25 as follows:]

--19. (Newly Presented) An image heating apparatus for heating an image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a heater, said heater including a metallic substrate, which is fixed so as not to rotate with respect to said apparatus;

a film moving in contact with said heater; and

a back-up roller for defining a nip with said heater via said film,

wherein said metallic substrate has a cylindrical shape, and

wherein said heater has a first insulating layer on said metallic substrate, a heat generating resistor on said first insulating layer and a second insulating layer on said heat generating resistor.

20. (Newly Presented) An image heating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said heat generating resistor is formed on a part of said metallic substrate in a circumferential direction.

21. (Newly Presented) An image heating apparatus according to claim 20, wherein a part of said heat generating resistor is opposite to the nip.

22. (Newly Presented) An image heating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said second insulating layer of said heater is in contact with said film.

23. (Newly Presented) An image heating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a thickness of said metallic substrate is in a range of 0.5 mm to 2 mm.

24. (Newly Presented) A heater for use in an image heating apparatus, said heater being adapted to be fixed so as not to rotate with respect to the image heating apparatus that has a film moving in contact with said heater, and a back-up roller for defining a nip with said heater via the film, said heater comprising:

a metallic substrate layer having a cylindrical shape;

a first insulating layer on said metallic substrate;

a heat generating resistor on said first insulating layer; and

a second insulating layer on said heat generating resistor.

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25. (Newly Presented) A heater according to claim 24, wherein said heat generating resistor is formed on a part of said metallic substrate in a circumferential direction.--
